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Northern Region News



November 3, 1993

A Newsletter For Employees and Retirees

Issue 11

Chief Dale Robertson Reassigned

*Robertson and Associate Chief George Leonard
Moved to the Department*

On November 1, F. Dale Robertson left his position as Forest Service chief to become special assistant to USDA Deputy Secretary Richard Rominger. Robertson was appointed chief in 1987 at the age of 46.

Robertson, a native of Arkansas, has held a variety of posts during his 32-year career with the agency. Among his many jobs: management analyst, WO (1968); deputy forest supervisor, Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon (1972); supervisor, Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon (1973); supervisor, Mt. Hood National Forest (1976); assistant to the deputy chief for Programs and Legislation (1980); associate deputy chief for Programs and Legislation (1981);

associate chief (1982), where he served until his selection as chief in 1987.

Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy appointed Dave Unger, 61, as acting chief. Unger was formerly associate deputy chief for the National Forest System. Most recently Unger led a national initiative to implement and coordinate efforts to protect endangered fisheries habitat.

Unger's professional background includes 14 years with the National Association of Conservation Districts. He worked as associate chief of the Soil Conservation Service for five years prior to joining the Forest Service in 1987. A native of Michigan, Unger graduated with a degree in Earth Sciences and holds a

master's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration.

Also assuming a new post as of November 1 was George Leonard, former associate chief of the Forest Service. Leonard is now working for Jim Lyons, assistant secretary for Natural Resources and Environment.

Leonard began his career with the Forest Service in 1957 in California, where he worked for three national forests as well as the Southwest Regional Office in San Francisco. In 1970 he moved to Washington where he held several positions in Timber Management. He also worked for one year as environmental coordinator on the staff of the deputy chief for Programs and Legislation. In 1981, he was named deputy director of the Timber Management staff, assuming the position of director of that staff in 1982. In 1986, he became associate deputy chief for the National Forest System, where he remained until his selection as associate chief in 1987.

Interpreter of the Year Named

Mary Vandiver of the Hebgen Lake Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest, has been selected Northern Region Interpreter of the Year for 1993. Mary will represent the Northern Region in national competition for the Gifford Pinchot Excellence in Interpretation Award which is given to the outstanding National Forest Interpreter each year. Mary was selected for her personal leadership in managing the Earthquake Lake Visitor Center. She recruited and trained a top-flight team who make sure that customer service always comes first. During the last two years she has also displayed exceptional dedication and attention to detail in

working with design and construction contractors during the rehabilitation project for the Visitor Center and replacement of the 25-year old exhibits. The new exhibits opened to rave public review in July 1993. Applause also to the other nominees:

Jonathan Klein, Beaverhead National Forest, for leadership and creativity in planning and building the new self-guided Wade Lake Interpretive Trail.

Matelyn Kempf, Bitterroot National Forest, for excellence in interpretive publications and community outreach and for leading interpretive planning efforts for the Lick Creek area.

John Alley, Deerlodge National Forest, for design and communication excellence in creating interpretive signs and displays and for sustained achievements as interpretive coach and technical advisor.

Teresa Wenum, Flathead National Forest, for her tireless efforts in bringing wilderness awareness and ethics programs to audiences bordering the Bob Marshall

Wilderness Complex.

Amy Teegarden, Helena National Forest, for completing the "Interpretive Strategy for the Elkhorn Cooperative Management Area" which blends the needs of three agencies into a realistic and effective vision for visitor oriented interpretive services.

Beth Paragamian, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, for bringing northern Idaho's "watchable wildlife" to Forest visitors, students, and the general public through talks, interpretive publications, and developed viewing sites, and for building a spirit of interagency cooperation. (Forest Service, BLM and Idaho Department of Fish and Game fund her position.)

Sandi Morris, Lewis and Clark National Forest, for planning and developing excellent interpretive displays and signs which promote the importance of cultural resource management.

Marcia Cross, Lolo National Forest, for leadership in developing interpretive projects which sensitively communicate Salish culture and history.

*by Keith Thurkill, Regional Interpreter
Regional Office*

Erasing Roads with Spyders

New technology permits equipment to "walk" across the landscape, causing less damage to the land

Roads have begun to disappear on the Wallace Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Strange as disappearing roads may sound, this is not a science fiction story!

A dedicated watershed, wildlife and fish habitat improvement crew along with several contractors are erasing roads from the landscape. Each morning during the past summer, a dedicated crew of about 30 people fanned out to various project sites on the district. The goal is ecosystem restoration.

The program begins with inventory of resource conditions and identifying improvement needs. In roaded areas of the district, many of the improvement needs can be accomplished by taking unnecessary roads out of service and restoring the road site to near natural conditions.

Once a project is approved and funded, the district restoration wizard Don Loper and his crew take over. Using a variety of conventional and exotic equipment, roads are ripped to allow natural water drainage, stream channel fills and culverts are removed and sloped to natural channel contour and finally, steeper fill slopes are excavated and restored to the cut from which they came. The result is that the road and its affect on resources of the area disappears.

Many of the restoration techniques used at Wallace Ranger District have been adapted from the experience of other ecosystem restoration program

leaders such as the Redwoods National Park of the National Park Service. Recent technological advances such as highly efficient hydraulic excavators, and an amazing mechanical contraption called a "spyder hoe" make this work physically possible. The "spyder hoe" can walk up a stream channel, leaving only a few

in the summer of 1993. Don Loper and his assistants pride themselves in adapting state of the art technique and equipment to the projects and training new operators and others in the complex science of ecosystem restoration.

With the support of District Ranger Steve Uilliams and the Supervisor's Office of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF), the district has launched a multi-faceted program of "ecosystem restoration" in parts of the district that are extensively roaded. Even Congress is directly involved in the program. Through special legislation in the Fiscal Year 1993 Appropriations Act, the IPNF has pilot forest authority to require timber sale purchasers to rehabilitate existing watershed problems during the course of the timber sale contract.

Combined restoration accomplishments for this year alone total 170 miles of road and 700 acres of restoration. In addition, fish biologists Ed Lider and

Mike Owen have designed and directed projects which have dramatically restored fish habitat in eight miles of key streams. With much talk about ecosystem management and ecosystem restoration, the Wallace Ranger District of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests has taken a significant step beyond talking about it.

*by Gary Reynolds, Supervisory Forester
Idaho Panhandle National Forests*



The spyder hoe is a backhoe that walks on legs like a spider. The legs are of adjustable length and the operator "walks" from work site to work site. The spyder hoe can go right up the bottom of a creek like a great iron insect and do work as they go. The leg adjustments allow the spyder hoe to keep itself level and walk up very steep slopes over stumps, rocks and other obstacles.

crushed leaves behind and climb to a headwater road up a 70 percent slope. The fantastic versatility of this machine makes in-stream fish and watershed improvements relatively cheap compared to hand labor techniques.

Local contractors in this economically depressed area have been quick to recognize the employment this program can provide. Local equipment operators highly skilled in road construction are becoming highly skilled at restoration. This enabled them to share in the \$180,000 paid for equipment use

caring for the land.....

Butte District Cleans up Mine

Employees of the Butte Ranger District, Deerlodge National Forest, recently tackled a long-standing eyesore, the abandoned Montreal Star Mine north of Butte. The mining claim was abandoned in 1991 after a drawn-out legal action over occupancy of cabins on the sites. Left behind, however, were decades of accumulated trash and the remains of various buildings. In addition, several old pits and the whole area around the mine had become a community dumping ground.

"It's areas like this that can give the minerals program a black eye," said forest engineer Dan Avery, "but fortunately the Regional Office came through with the monies needed to clean it up."

On September 21, district and Supervisor Office employees joined

forces against old refrigerators, washers, car bodies, tires, beer cans and everything else imaginable. Total reclamation is almost completed: three dumptrucks work of scrap metal have since been hauled out, the State Abandoned Mine Reclamation Bureau will seal the shaft and some potential acid drainage problems still need to be addressed.

It was an opportunity for office-bound personnel to get out, and everyone had a good feeling of accomplishment at the end of the day. With a long history of mining on the Deerlodge Forest, Jack said there several other locations they hope to clean up in the coming years.

*by Palmer Bowen, NEPA Assistant
Butte Ranger District,
Deerlodge National Forest*



Some of the trash surrounding abandoned Montreal Star Mine cleaned up by the Butte Ranger District

Painting Out the Scars

"He's an artist with a backhoe," said Tom Malecek, timber management assistant with the Wise River Ranger District. Which is what you'd need to make the ugly scars on the landscape caused by mining activity disappear.

The artist in question is Ron Burns of Copeland Construction, who was contracted by Cyprus Cooper Co. to complete a mine reclamation project in the Pioneer Mountains in the Beaverhead National Forest. The damage to the land was caused by the company's exploration of the area mainly for molybdenum, used as a steel hardening agent.

With his backhoe, Burns fills in settling ponds and road cuts, and plants snags and small trees across the site. Once grass begins to regenerate, the land returns to its natural appearance. The project calls for one road to be turned into an all-terrain vehicle path and most of the rest of the approximate seven miles of road to be reclaimed.



*Top right - An area before reclamation.
Bottom right - Same area after Ron Burns and his backhoe have done their magic*

The Scuttlebutt on Ecosystem Management

Recently fisheries, wildlife and botany specialists at the Regional Office responded to a questionnaire by the author on the "pros" and "cons" of ecosystem management (EM) philosophy versus previous management philosophy and how EM affects the way they now look at the fisheries and wildlife resource on public land.

From the responses received, it is apparent there is support and enthusiasm for the application of EM principles. The following is a random sampling of some of their candid thoughts and observations on EM:

Q How is the Forest Service doing things differently?

A From my perspective, a number of significant changes are associated with EM that affect the Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (TES) species resources which is my area of focus. EM has elevated our thinking to considering multiple geographical and time scales, full plant and animal communities—getting away from solely singular species and focusing on ecological processes. *Mary Maj, Threatened and Endangered Species Program Assistant.*

Q What reactions have you noticed from others regarding EM?

A EM has its roots in conservation biology, which in turn has roots in fish and wildlife biology. As an agency, we still have a long way to go between rhetoric and implementation. On a positive note, EM has gone beyond talk and is becoming more of an accepted way to look at things. Most people are aware of EM and optimistic about its future. Therefore, it is viewed as a very positive development. *Al Christensen, Wildlife Program Leader.*

Q What major accomplishments have you seen since the introduction of EM?

A The concepts of ecosystem management and conservation biology originated in the fisheries and wildlife professions. We are busy now working on applications, processes and procedures to implement EM concepts for the aquatic resources. *Rick Stowell, Fisheries Program Leader.*

A The Forest Service approach to ecosystem management will undoubtedly complement the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's ecosystem-based approach to the listing of species, especially in cases where two or more such species occupy overlapping landscape areas. *Steve Shelly, Botanist/Sensitive Plants.*

Q What new EM management concepts are you looking forward to in FY 94 and beyond?

A Prairie ecosystems are the most fragmented, diminished ecosystems in North America. In 1994, increased emphasis will be placed on understanding these ecosystems and developing multi-agency approaches to their conservation. This will include integration of range management, oil and gas development and other commodity programs in an ecologically-based approach to grassland conservation and management. *Steve Shelly.*

A The application of existing EM concepts through integrated landscape analysis and GIS applications. A new generation of Forest Plans driven by the ecosystems they represent rather than timber, range, minerals extraction...A NEW FOREST SERVICE!! *Rick Stowell.*

by Madelyn Kempf, Public Affairs Specialist
Bitterroot National Forest

REDD SEPTEMBER



It was September 25, 1993. The location was the upper St. Joe watershed on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Troops numbering in the 50's came from all over the Idaho panhandle area to answer the call. They gathered at the old Red Ives Ranger Station in the chill of the early morning to receive their assignments. Their mission: To locate and record evidence of a rare entity once commonly persecuted as an undesirable. The air was electric with excitement and anticipation as groups of 2 and 3 were dispersed from the command center to over 20 different areas. Each person knew the chance of spotting the subject was slim but they felt a duty to help. And so began the Great Bull Trout Hunt.

The Great Bull Trout Hunt II is part of a continuing effort to monitor the occurrence and distribution of bull trout in the St. Joe watershed. This was the second consecutive year of the redd surveys, or survey of trout spawning nests. The nest consists of a location on the river bottom where the male and female dig a small depression by lying on their sides and flapping their tails up and down. Here the eggs will be laid and fertilized. This year, more than 90 redds were positively identified and 14 mature bull trout were sighted in over 60 miles of stream.

Participants in the surveys included representatives from the Forest Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Panhandle Trout Unlimited, North Idaho Fly Casters, students from the Spokane Community College in Washington and several private citizens. A geneticist was also present and collected tissue samples for comparing bull trout populations within the Columbia River basin.

Thanks go to all that made this year's event a success. Special thanks is extended to the Trout Unlimited group that treated the returning mob to a feast featuring—what else—exotic trout.

by Michael Owen,
Southern Zone Fishery Biologist, IPNF

Newsletter Guidelines

The Northern Region News is published by the Northern Region Public Affairs Office for employees and retirees. Following are guidelines for submitting stories:

- Articles should feature Forest Service employees and retirees involved in Forest Service activities and projects.
- Articles must be concise and timely. All articles are subject to editing, and may not be used if outdated, inappropriate, or if space does not permit.
- Photos should be black and white, glossy prints if possible.

Send articles to G.Weisgerber:R01A (Data General) or Gloria Weisgerber, Northern Region Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807. The public affairs officer on your Forest may want to preview articles before they are sent. If so, please follow that process.

Walking on the Wild Side

"Entertaining!" "Involved us all." "Very Informative." "Makes learning fun!"—written feedback from "Walk on the Wild Side" audiences.

It is entertaining to watch friends and co-workers play rocks, trees and animals in a wilderness skit. Everyone is involved with the education effort, from wilderness staff and frontliners to community partners. Not only do audiences learn something about wilderness, but presenters are also becoming more informed—learning to be teachers! Learning is fun with stories of hidden leave-no-trace gold and the use of props like the wilderness values box.

Through the dedicated efforts of employees and community partners, September marked the second successful year for the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex (BMWC) Education Program. In 1992, the BMWC developed and began implementing a coordinated education strategy to direct the wilderness education efforts, a challenging task in that the Bob Marshall stretches over five ranger districts in four national forests—the Flathead, Helena, Lewis and Clark and Lolo.

In the last two years, over 4,000 people—including campground visitors, scouts, other youth groups, school students, teachers, fair visitors, forest and wilderness visitors, plus Forest Service employees—took a "walk on the wild side," learning about wilderness and ways to protect this special 1.5 million-acre resource. Besides formal presentations, education messages



Teresa Wenum demonstrates to some elementary school youngsters how horses should be tethered in the wilderness, using "Stella" the wilderness horse as a teaching aid

were presented through news articles, local publications, radio announcements, trailhead and office bulletin boards, trailhead and field contacts, demonstration camps, plus the popular 16-station skills trail. It has been a full two years and we look forward to next year's opportunities! Hats off to the energetic, enthusiastic and committed employees who have contributed to a successful education program!

*by Teresa Wenum,
Bob Marshall Wilderness Education Coordinator
Hungry Horse Ranger District, Flathead National Forest*



Rendezvous for Wilderness Rangers Held at Birch Creek

The intricacies of managing wilderness, or in some cases conscious non-management, seem to be growing as public demand for wild lands increases. The different approaches to management and other concerns were discussed at the annual Wilderness Ranger Rendezvous at the Birch Creek Outdoor Education Center, Beaverhead National Forest, August 23-27.

Over 70 permanent and seasonal employees gathered at the end of the summer season celebration to interact, talk over wilderness issues, and brush up on wilderness skills. While most attendees were from the Northern Region, the event also attracted wilderness rangers from Regions 4, 5, and 8. Speakers included Regional Forester Dave Jolly, Congressional staffer Jim Bradley, and Fred Matt, wilderness manager for the Salish Kootenai Tribe.

The rendezvous was organized by R-I Wilderness Excellence Team, with Judith Fraser, coordinator for the Anaconda Pintler Wilderness, taking the lead. The event was followed by a wilderness restoration workshop conducted by Joe Flood, wilderness ranger, Mission Mountains Wilderness.

*by Douglas Schnitzspahn,
Volunteer, Student Conservation Association
Dillon Ranger District, Beaverhead National Forest*



Seasonal wilderness rangers and other R-1 wilderness staff trying out a children's game, "Circle of Life," showing how every part of the environment is interconnected. A circle is formed, each person sitting on the knees of the next. If anyone tries to stand, the circle is broken. At far right is Herb Spradlin, West Fork Ranger District forest wilderness manager. To his immediate right is Connie Meyers, director, Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center.

On the Trail of the Whitebark Pine



If you've hiked the high country in northwestern Montana this summer, perhaps you've noticed the skeletons of dead or dying trees along the trail. Many of these skeletons are dead whitebark pine. The Glacier View Ranger District has initiated a project to learn more about whitebark pine and its ecosystem in the North Fork area.

Whitebark pine is a major component of high elevation forests in northwestern Montana, especially on dry, exposed ridgelines and south-facing slopes. They have died or are dying from two major causes: infestations of mountain pine beetle in the '70s and '80s and white pine blister rust (a fungus), which has been chronic here for decades.

High mortality in whitebark pine has alarmed forest and wildlife biologists for several reasons. One is a simple respect for maintaining species that have historically occurred in our forests for biological reasons—some of which may yet be unknown. For example, all species of trees are useful at high elevations for retaining snowpack and preventing avalanches. Whitebark pine acts as a "nurse tree" at high elevations, offering relief from harsh conditions that enables subalpine fir and spruce to grow near it. Without whitebark pine in the ecosystem, other tree species may not be able to grow as far upslope.

Another reason for concern about whitebark pine mortality is that this species has historically been an important bear food. Whitebark pine seeds have a high digestible fat content and may even contain estrogenic compounds that favorably affect bear reproduction. The seeds conveniently ripen in late summer when bears are foraging intensely to prepare for a winter in their dens. However, bears in northwestern Montana have had virtually no whitebark pine seeds to eat for a decade or so.

How can we restore the whitebark pine forests of northwest Montana? In nature, whitebark pine relies on a bird—

the Clark's nutcracker—to plant its seeds. As a fascinating example of co-evolution, the nutcracker pries apart closed whitebark cones to extract the seeds. It collects up to 100 seeds in its gullet before flying as far as 14 miles away to cache the seeds. The birds seem to favor cleared, exposed sites. They fly down to the ground and bury the seeds about one inch deep, exactly the right depth for germination. During the following spring, the birds fly back to these caches and retrieve the seeds for food. However, they don't get them all, and some germinate.

Research biologists are convinced that fire suppression during this century has reduced the habitat available for whitebark pine regeneration. Prescribed fire may be the answer to preparing some high-elevation sites specifically to encourage the Clark's nutcracker to bury seeds there. Also, genetic research is being conducted to produce seedlings resistant to white pine blister rust that may one day be planted on suitable sites.

This summer, the Whitebark Pine Team of Glacier View Ranger District initiated an intensive study of whitebark pine and its high-elevation ecosystem in the North Fork Flathead River drainage. They have begun to collect data from an array of sample plots located throughout the high country. The study will answer some immediate questions about the present distribution and health of whitebark pine in the North Fork, as well as how the situation has changed in the last few decades. From this information, the team will better be able to pinpoint where management opportunities—such as prescribed fire—should be initiated. If you have noticed a change in the distribution of whitebark pine in the North Fork or want more information, contact the team at the Glacier View Ranger District, P.O. Box W, Columbia Falls, MT 59912 or call (406) 892-4372.

by Sally Murdock, Writer/Editor
Glacier View Ranger District,
Flathead National Forest

What's Happening On Crane Mountain



by Swan Lake Planning Team
Flathead National Forest

The Crane Mountain area of the Flathead National Forest forms a scenic backdrop for Flathead Lake, an area which attracts national and international, as well as local recreationists. Over the last several years, areas of red trees have become increasingly visible. What's happening?

Mountain pine beetles have been attacking lodgepole pine stands in the Crane Mountain area east of Flathead Lake. The Mountain pine beetle is an insect which bores into, and kills, mature pine trees. Beetle populations have reached epidemic proportions and are continuing to spread from areas of dead lodgepole pine to nearby areas containing live pine, resulting in the wide-spread mortality of larger pine trees on Crane Mountain.

About 2,000 acres currently contain lodgepole pine with varying amounts of mortality. In some areas only scattered trees have been killed, while in other areas 80 to 100 percent of the trees are

dead. Further spread is anticipated. Approximately one-third of Crane Mountain contains mature lodgepole pine trees which are at risk for beetle mortality.

What Will Happen Without Action?

The current situation is part of a natural cycle which has historically created the lodgepole pine forests in this area. In the past, large fires have spread across the mountains every 40 to 60 years, burning wide swathes of vegetation. Only the largest, fire resistant trees survived these wildfires. Lodgepole pine was able to dominate many of these burned areas because it is adapted to regenerate after fire. Wildfires of this magnitude have not occurred on Crane Mountain since settlers migrated into the Flathead Valley and actively fought to control fire.

We have two alternatives to the beetle problem: Let nature take its course or take active steps to limit its adverse impact. The Forest Service has developed a project proposal which addresses the existing

epidemic, and is designed to improve the long-term health and stability of the forest. By rapidly reforesting areas where dead trees are concentrated, future mortality will be reduced.

The proposal will reduce the hazard of future wildfire by using some of the dead timber for commercial products. By taking action now, the Forest Service expects to limit some of the negative long-term effects on soils, water, and wildlife which will occur if the beetle epidemic takes its natural course.

The proposal was developed in an interdisciplinary environment where wildlife, water quality, visual quality, and other resource objectives were balanced with consideration of the natural progression of these sites if left untreated. Recommendations include salvage of lodgepole pine, reforestation and slash treatment, and construction of road to permit timber harvesting. These actions should lessen future fire risk and improve overall forest health across the Crane Mountain landscape.

Storm Creek Fire Five Years Later

by Charles Mark, Forester
Beartooth Ranger District,
Custer National Forest

The Storm Creek fire burned approximately 107,000 acres on the Custer and Gallatin National Forests in 1988. This fire started out as a prescribed natural fire in June of that

summer, but later exceeded the fire management prescription, and the fire had to be suppressed. The Storm Creek fire defied suppression actions, as did most of the Greater Yellowstone wildfires in 1988, only to finally succumb to the rain and snows of fall.

All fires had been suppressed since 1988 in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness until the Prescribed Natural Fire Program was reviewed and revised. On July 21, it was approved by the Regional Forester for reimplementation.

The Beartooth District of the Custer National Forest decided that it would be an appropriate time to visit the Storm Creek fire now that the prescribed natural fire program is again operational. The district invited members of the local media on a field trip into the fire area on August 12. The field trip objective was to observe and talk about the fire effects since 1988,

not rehash past or present fire management policy.

We observed how truly resilient and forgiving wilderness ecosystems can be. Thousands upon thousands of lodgepole pine have regenerated on the forest floor. Aspen clones have not only regenerated, but have expanded their influence now that abundant sunlight can reach the soil surface. Many shrubs, forbs, and grasses have been rejuvenated in places where the lodgepole pine canopy permitted no such greenery before, but there are areas on the steeper slopes that will take a much longer time to recover.

The local news media was very impressed with what they saw, as we all were. Fire is the most pervasive natural force operating in the Northern Rockies. Death, rejuvenation, and growth are natural outcomes, when fire is allowed to play its role in wilderness.

A Project with Several Agendas



Paul Snyder (kneeling) demonstrates trail reconstruction techniques to MCC crew

To give young adults a meaningful experience in a conservation-related project—this was the primary reason the Stevensville Ranger District chose to respond to a request for proposals from the Montana Conservation Corps (MCC). District Ranger Leslie Weldon herself once a member of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), feels that these types of programs provide excellent opportunities for young people to gain real job skills as well as exposure to conservation issues. In addition, project work is accomplished by such programs which provides direct resource management benefits.

MCC, a non-profit company, offers a youth service-learning program which provides conservation-related work and education to young people. Crews are small—from five to eight members—and range in age from 16-21 for the summer program, 16-23 for the year-round program. Of the total MCC numbers, 50 percent are from lower income families, the remaining 50 percent from the general population.

The eight-member crew's first days on the Bitterroot were spent receiving chainsaw training and a district orientation. The first day involved cutting pine trees out an aspen stand, improving it as part of an ecosystem management treatment proposal in the St. Joseph Timber Sale area. This was the first time most members of the crew had held a chainsaw, but by the end of the week everyone had had an opportunity to work supervised with a saw, and the entire project area of seven acres had been treated.

The crew tackled a wide variety of projects including stream restoration, urban interface fire risk reduction, trailside interpretation and watershed rehabilitation. Four weeks were spent reconstructing the St. Mary's Trail—installing water bars, closing switchbacks, constructing log rail fencing, protecting sensitive plants, rehabilitating a fresh water spring and repairing signs.

Each project was accompanied by a short orientation and training session to outline the purpose of the project and how it related to conservation principles, and to instruct the crew in safe working procedures. District employee Paul Snyder worked side by side with the group, providing guidance, logistical support, and training.

The crew's work on the district ended with an awards ceremony at the Willoughby Environmental Education Center. A certificate of recognition and Bitterroot National Forest pin were presented to each participant along with a letter from District Ranger Leslie Weldon thanking them for their work. As stated in the letter, "This training program combining hard physical work with education and training seems to be a successful way to start people off on a working career."

by Leslie Anderson, Assistant FMO
Stevensville Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest

Custer Hosts International Guests

A total of 22 natural resource management professionals from 23 countries visited the Ashland Ranger District of the Custer National Forest, October 4. The participants included professors, commissioners and directors of forestry in their respective countries. These individuals are involved in an intensive training program in natural resource management. The group toured other Forest Service sites in Regions 9 and 2 before returning home.

District personnel provided the visitors an overview of their resource areas including range, fire and fuels management, and the heritage program. There was time to talk more informally and do a little socializing at a Western-style barbecue hosted by the district for the international group, which was also attended by local government leaders and other members of the community, as well as Forest Service personnel.

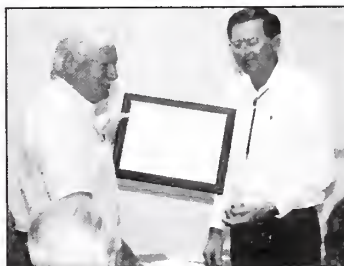
by Bill Ott, District Ranger
Ashland Ranger District,
Custer National Forest

Fair Prizes

Many forests in Region 1 put much time and effort into county and state fair exhibits. A special way-to-go to Lewis and Clark National Forest for their "Nature's Den" exhibit which won Best Education Exhibit and \$100 in prize money at the Montana State Fair in Great Falls. The project was completed in cooperation with Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management.

Another prize-winning entry was from the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, which earned a first place ribbon and plaque for their "Coeur d'Alene Nursery's Contribution to Ecosystem Management" exhibit at the Kootenai County Fair.

Bitterroot Volunteers Awarded



Above - Good Sams Group receive 1,000-Hour Volunteer Award from Bitterroot Forest Supervisor Steve Kelly. At left, Marc Richardson on left is presented his 1,000-Hour Volunteer Award from Steve Kelly.



Barbara Roberts at one of her favorite hobbies, playing rock music on her bass guitar

Spotlight

Barbara Roberts

From: Mountain View, California

Profession: civil engineering technician, Lewis and Clark National Forest

What Job REALLY Is: sign coordinator, route management system coordinator and architectural drafting

Best Part of My Job Is: The freedom and trust I'm given to work through problems and make decisions on my own. Also, the challenge of doing new things.

Previous Life: Worked in a paint and hardware store for two years before becoming a full time homemaker/mother for eight years.

Immediate Goal: I'm inching my way toward a civil engineering degree. How I'll use it is anyone's guess. I truly enjoy my current job, but don't want to lock myself into any specific mind-set and limit my future options. Although, I must say the Peace Corps would be an exciting adventure after my boys are grown!

How I Spend My Time Away from Work: When I'm not doing college homework, I sing and play rock 'n roll music with my husband. I play base guitar and Greg plays rhythm/lead guitar. We both provide lead and backup vocals in the newly formed rock band "Night 45." Our music is a mixture of hard rock with a sprinkle of blues. ZZ Top, AC/DC, 38 Special, Jet Boys, Lita Ford and Chris Issac are a few of the artists whose songs we perform.

People I Wish I'd Met: Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dream vacation: My husband and I being waited on hand and foot somewhere tropical.

Achievements I'm Most Proud Of: Not just being married for 15 years, but the wonderful relationship my husband and I have--we're best friends. And attending college and maintaining a high grade point average while working full time and raising three sons.

News Flash

At the recommendation of Secretary Mike Espy and the Forest Service Chief, the Regional Office will consolidate all special emphasis observances in 1994. A two-day event will be held during the week of April 11-15, 1994, in which Regional Office and National Forest employees will be invited to participate.

Some Introductions Are in Order

Part II : R-1 Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee

No one better understands the problems of the disabled than someone with a disability. For that reason, as described in the October issue of the Northern Region News, Region 1 formed an advisory committee of persons with disabilities (PDAC) to advise the Region on such issues as integrating persons with disabilities into the workforce; assist with trainings; promote awareness; and communicate issues, concerns and accomplishments to leadership. Last month, to give you insight into our work, I introduced you to Kathy Daughtery. Next, I would like you to meet RANDY WAKEFIELD, Cartographic Technician on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF):

I am 41 years old and have been married for 23 years. I have four children and two grandchildren. My favorite compliment is "you don't look old enough to be a grandpa." I was in an auto accident in 1973 which left me paralyzed from the waist down. It did allow me to avoid the draft. For the first three years I used a wheelchair. I broke two of them and lost one so I had to try something else. They wouldn't let me have a jet pack so I settled for leg braces and crutches.

My first job with the Forest Service was as a temporary on the Nez Perce National Forest. There I got my first hard lesson on ACCESSIBILITY. I was to work in Engineering on the second floor. After hunting around for an elevator (there was none) my elevator finally came down to me. Four big husky engineers. One on each corner of the chair and up I went. Did I say "husky"? Well by the end of summer they were even huskier. I'm not even going to tell you what they proposed for me to do if there had been a fire!!

Since then I've worked at the Regional Office, at the Sandpoint Ranger District, IPNF; and am currently working at the Supervisor's Office of the IPNF.

by Crystal Lake, Secretary
Regional Office

(Editor's Note: The final article in this series will be published in the December issue of Northern Region News.)

Three Rivers District Gets Beauty Treatment



Thanks to the efforts of the wives of two employees at the Troy Ranger Station, the flower boxes in front of the main office building were full of color and provided a cheerful welcome to all who came by. Karol Hunter and Jackie Reichert not only planted the flowers, they came up every week and weeded, plucked off the withered blossoms and ensured that everything looked right.

Personnel Update

BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

HOEM, CAROLYN, resource assistant, SO, promotion

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

MYERS, LES, forestry technician, Dillon District, reassignment, training instructor, Trapper Creek Job Corps

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

AMOSS, JEFF, forester, SO, cash award

BOLTON, JOY, archeologist, SO, cash award

DRUSKY, MICHAEL, special program manager, R-6 Colville NF, Curlew

JCC, promotion, supervisory social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC

DICKMAN, LYNNE, geologist, SO, cash award

FIMAN, GERALD, supervisory forestry technician, West Fork RD, cash award

FLOCK, RICK, forester, Darby RD, cash award

JARUSSI, KATHY, personnel clerk, SO, promotion

JAKOBER, MICHAEL, biological technician, SO, cash award

JOHNSON, JANET, ecologist, SO, cash award

KING, LINDA, resource clerk, West Fork RD, cash award

LEWIS, RUTH, computer assistant, SO, cash award

LOVITT, PAULINE, secretary, SO, promotion

RANSIER, GREG, forestry technician, Stevensville RD, cash award

RENNAKER, MILLARD, SCSEP, Darby RD, cash award

RICH, CECIL, biological technician, SO, cash award

RICHARDSON, MARC, volunteer, 1000 hour service award

SILVIEUS, DAVID, forester, Stevensville RD, cash award

SKIPPER, LYGIA, computer assistant, Darby RD, cash award

SNYDER, PAUL, forestry technician, Stevensville RD, cash award

STEWART, CATHY, forester, Stevensville RD, cash award

THOMAS, KIM, forestry technician, Stevensville RD, cash award

UNDERWOOD, RITA, support services supervisor, Stevensville RD, cash award

UNDERWOOD, STAN, forester, Sula RD, cash award

WELDON, MICHAEL, biological technician, SO, cash award

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

MEYERS, LES, forestry technician, Beaverhead NF, Dillon RD, reassignment, training instructor (natural resources), Trapper Creek CCC

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BRICK, CLARE, forester, Pierce RD, cash award

BROWN, VICKI, personnel clerk, SO, cash award

CAMPBELL, BOB, supervisory forestry technician, Pierce RD, cash award

COCHRELL, CRISTIE, forestry aid, Pierce RD, cash award

COON, CARLA, resource clerk, North Fork RD, cash award

COOPER, SHERRI, forestry technician, Pierce RD, cash award

DOMAN, RANDY, forestry technician, SO, cash award

FRAZIER, JOYCE, forestry technician, Pierce RD, cash award

GOCHNOUR, DOUG, supervisory forester, SO, cash award

GRIMM, VICKI, financial assistant, Pierce RD, cash award

HEYWOOD, CLAIRENE, forestry technician, Pierce RD, cash award

JENSEN, DEANNA, forestry technician, Pierce RD, cash award

JONES, ALLEN, forestry aid, Powell RD, cash award

JONES, DIANA, landscape architect, SO, cash award

JOOSTEN, DAN, forestry technician, Pierce RD, cash award

KEATING, KEN, forestry technician, Pierce RD, cash award

KINZER, DONNA, computer assistant, Pierce RD, cash award

KLINKE, MARK, forestry technician, Pierce RD, cash award

KUSICKO, RICK, supervisory forester, Pierce RD, cash award

LAMUNYAN, PEGGY, information receptionist typing, Pierce RD, cash award

LEWIS, TIM, lead forestry technician, Pierce RD, cash award

LEWIS, ZILIA, resource assistant, Pierce RD, cash award

MCCORMACK, JIM, forester, Pierce RD, temporary promotion

MUNSON, COLLEEN, forestry technician, Pierce RD, cash award

POLLWORTH, SHIRLEY, civilian pay clerk typing, Pierce RD, cash award

POPE, JEFF, forester, Powell RD, cash award

RIEMAN, JEANNE, personnel assistant, SO, cash award

ROY, JOHNNA, wildlife biologist, North Fork RD, cash award &

temporary promotion

SCHUFT, CAROLE, civilian pay clerk typing, Powell RD, cash award

STEINER, RANDY, personnel clerk, SO, cash award

WYNN, LAUREL, personnel management specialist, SO, promotion

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

FULLER, JOHN, forestry technician, Lochsa RD, transfer, Boise NF, Cascade RD

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BEITELSPACHER, KINDRA, range technician, McKenzie RD, cash award

FOLI, GARY, wildlife biologist, McKenzie RD, cash award

GRINDE, CYNTHIA, support services specialist, Medora RD, cash award

GRINDE, PETER, supervisory range conservationist, Sioux RD, cash award

HANSEN, KURT, range conservationist, Sheyenne RD, cash award

KEMPENICH, BRIAN, range technician, McKenzie RD, cash award

LUNSFORD, MARY, secretary OA, SO, cash award

MARK, CHARLES, forester, Beartooth RD, cash award

MILLETT, DEAN, forester, Ashland RD, cash award

RUFVOLD, COLLEEN, office automation clerk, Sheyenne RD, cash award

SCHALLER, GEORGE, forester, SO, cash award

SCHUMACHER, STEVE, range technician, Sheyenne RD, cash award

SEXTON, MARK, forestry technician, Medora RD, cash award

THOMPSON, BEVERLY, support services specialist, Sheyenne RD, cash award

THORNTON, MARTINA, realty officer, Medora RD, cash award

TRANA, GARY, range technician, McKenzie RD, cash award

VOGT, CASILDA, personnel assistant, SO, cash award

WIEGAND, ROBERT, forester, Medora RD, cash award

YOUNG, DIXIE, support services supervisor, SO, temporary promotion

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

BAKER, GERARD, assistant ranger, Beartooth RD, transfer,

superintendent, Little Bighorn Battlefield, National Park Service

KARGES, J. SUE, information assistant, reassignment,

editorial assistant, SO

RESIGNATIONS

RATLIFF, KENNETH, supervisory civil engineer, SO, resignation

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BURREN, BETH, cash award, Hungry Horse RD

CONNER, MIKE, cash award, SO

HILL, ELIZABETH, cash award, Swan Lake RD

HURD, ROBERT, cash award, Hungry Horse RD

KNUPP, TERRY, assistant district ranger, Hungry Horse RD,

promotion, district ranger, Lewis & Clark NF, Kings Hill RD

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

CHRISTIANSEN, STEVE, forester, SO, cash award from Bridger/Teton NF

COMSTOCK, JUDY, appraiser, Lolo NF, promotion, SO

WHITMAN, GRACE, support service specialist, Hebgen Lake RD, cash award

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

OWEN, MICHAEL, fisheries biologist, career conditional appointment, St. Maries RD

POLICHIO, PEGGY, supervisory forester, temporary promotion, forester administration, Fernan RD

WALLACE, JAMES, forester, temporary promotion, supervisory forester, Fernan RD

REASSIGNMENTS & TRANSFERS

EATON, WILLIAM, civil engineering technician, reassignment, civil engineering technician, St. Maries RD

RESIGNATIONS

BROMLEY, WENDY, student trainee (forestry), St. Maries RD, Avery RD

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ACKLEY, ERINN, forestry aide, Three Rivers RD, cash award

AHENAKEW, GORDON, forestry aide, Three Rivers RD, cash award

CHAPEL, LESLIE, forestry aide, Three Rivers RD, cash award

GENTRY, DONNA, forestry technician, Rexford RD, cash award

HAWKINS, ZACHARIAH, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, cash award

HUCKEL, DAN, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, cash award

KAISER-STEVENSON, KIRSTEN, forester, Fortune RD, promotion

MATT, ROIAN, forestry aide, Three Rivers RD, cash award

Personnel Update

ROSE, DAN, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, cash award
SANDALL, JIM, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, cash award
SATHER, KELLI, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, cash award
SEIFERT, DAN, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, cash award
SHEPARD, DEAN, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, cash award
WARNER, MARCI, forester, Rexford RD, promotion
WINSLOW, TRAVIS, forestry aide, Three Rivers RD, cash award

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BENSON, JERRY, supervisory forestry technician, Plains RD, 20-year service award
BESSLER-HACKETT, DIANE, financial assistant, Missoula RD, special act
BRAS, JOHN, supervisory forestry technician, Plains RD, spot award
BREKKE, CAROL, resource assistant, Missoula RD, special act
DESOUSA, GILSON, forestry technician, Missoula RD, special act
GREEN, SANDRA, office automation assistant, Superior RD, special act
HAWK, RONALD, forester, SO, performance award
HAYNES, DENNIS, forestry technician, Plains RD, spot award
IPPISCH, CAROL, resource assistant, Superior RD, special act
KIBLER, CHARLES, supply clerk, SO, promotion, Tongass NF, SO, Ketchikan, AK
KRIVACEK, JANET, supervisory forester, Missoula RD, special act
LANGE-NAVARRO, RISA, supervisory forestry technician, Ninemile RD, 10-year service award
MCBROOM, WILLIAM, forestry technician, Superior RD, spot award
MAGNUSON, LEAF, information assistant, Missoula RD, special act
MAILLET, LYNNEE, supervisory forestry technician, Superior RD, special act
MATTHEWS, MARK, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award
NOLAN, ROBERT, civil engineering technician, SO, 20-year service award
NORDBROCK, MELVIN, forestry technician, Superior RD, spot award
PETERSON, MARGARET, conveyance examiner, SO, performance award
RIGGERS, BRIAN, fish biologist, SO, special act
SANDERS, CORRINE, information receptionist, Superior RD, special act
SCHLADER, SHARON, support services supervisor, Superior RD, special act
SOLHEIM, DEAN, animal packer, Ninemile RD, special act
SOULE, IRA, forestry technician, Plains RD, 30-year service award
SMITH, ELAINE, computer assistant, Superior RD, special act
SMYERS, NORMAN, geologist, SO, 20-year service award
THOMPSON, ORVIL, forestry technician, Superior RD, spot award
TUPPER, DAVID, forester, Plains RD, 30-year service award
VACURA, WAYNE, supervisory forestry technician, Plains RD, 20-year service award & spot award
WISEMAN, JODILYNN, interpretive guide, Missoula RD, special act
WORLEY, WELLS, forestry technician, Superior RD, spot award
YORK, DAVID, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

FARR, ANGELA, personnel management specialist, SO, reassignment, Targhee NF, R4
MORRIS, DONNA, computer assistant, SO, reassignment, Arapaho-Roosevelt NF, Ft. Collins, Colorado

Retirement News

HAROLD CASWELL, maintenance mechanic, Plains RD, Lolo NF
CARL FAGER, forester, Custer National Forest

Custer Rendezvous

*by Chuck Teague, Membership Chairman
Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association*

Over 40 Custer National Forest retirees and current staff, including Acting Supervisor Steve Solem, met for a two-day rendezvous at the Kaleva Lodge camp near Red Lodge on August 6 and 7. The gathering was organized by Ode and Sally Cusker and Tom Ladvela.

Next year's plan is to meet in Miles City, August 12 and 13, 1994. Bob and Ingeborg Howard are handling arrangements. Mark it on your calendar now.

In Memoriam

Lynn G. Christopherson, 66, of Darby, Montana, died September 30 of an apparent heart attack. Born in Levan, Utah, he moved with his family to Darby in 1930.

Christopherson worked under temporary appointments for the Forest Service as an engineering equipment operator for the Bitterroot National Forest from 1969-83.

H. A. "Biff" McCullough, 81, of Darby, Montana, died October 4 in Hamilton. He was raised in Indiana, and moved to the Bitterroot Valley in 1942.

McCullough worked for the Darby Ranger District from 1947-59 in a variety of temporary appointments. He secured a permanent position with the district in 1960 as laborer-foreman. In 1972, he was reassigned to the Trapper Creek Jobs Corps Center at Darby as group leader. He retired from Federal service in 1974.

George F. Weyermann, 81, of Beaverton, Oregon, died October 7. Weyermann worked as a lookout and as a foreman for a CCC camp before becoming a forester in 1947 for the Clearwater National Forest. He transferred to the R-1 Regional Office in 1951 where he worked until securing permanent status as a forester with the Flathead National Forest in 1954. From 1954-66 he worked for the Flathead and St. Joe National Forests, transferring in 1967 to Region 4 as a supervisory forester in Timber Management. He retired in 1971.

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You Can Set Your Clock by the Ranger Lady

by Karen Williams,
Developed Recreation Coordinator
Avery Ranger District, IPNF

The campfire chatter turned from bull trout to needle blight as the volunteer trout survey group camped at Red Ives relived the days events. Being discussed was the large quantity of seemingly dying lodge pole pine in the area. "Yeh, I asked the ranger lady at the station house and she gave me an information sheet on it," said one. The "ranger lady" is Arleen Moyle, the septuagenarian volunteer completing her fourth season at the historic Red Ives Ranger Station, now serving as a backcountry visitor information center.

With the help of her companion Johnie Dunaway, she has transformed the musty disheveled office and outbuildings into a neat, orderly compound. But public information is her real specialty. Visitors can be assured she will know where the golden trout are or how Broken Leg Creek got its name.

Arleen uses her nursing background to run a tight ship. Avery District resource specialists know a speedy response is expected when they get the message "Arleen needs to know..."

Although you can set your watch by her 8:00 A.M. "radio check," she and Johnie don't hesitate when roused by a 3:00 A.M. emergency or to sacrifice a night's sleep to tend one of the Forest Service pack horses pastured there. Getting even more attention are the visiting children who come away with Smokey



Arleen answers Len Mason's question, "Where's the fish?"

Bear buttons, coloring books, and a new friend. Her success with children could be heard in the remark of one young camper who, after finding the visitor center door locked, said to her mother, "I hope she'll be back soon. We wouldn't want to leave Red Ives without seeing the ranger lady."

The Northern Region News

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